

Misc.

21 December 1953

Memorandum for: Deputy Director/Plans


Subject: Congressional Trips Abroad.

1. As you know, during the past few months there have been a great many trips abroad by members of Congressional Committees investigating all aspects of American activities overseas and the international situation. Certain incidents arose during these trips which might have been quite harmful to CIA security. In one instance certain foreign service officials discussed with some visiting Senators certain aspects of CIA activities abroad of a rather sensitive nature. In another instance officials of the Department of State made known to a Congressional visitor the numbers of CIA personnel at a given station. Occasionally Congressional visitors have asked to talk to the senior CIA person present without our having had an opportunity to inform the station chief as to whether the Congressman had been briefed or was aware of CIA activities.

2. Because of the number of these visits and their very nature, it became necessary to send dispatches to the field to inform the appropriate station in each instance of the impending arrival of a Congressional delegation and whether any contact should be made. The costs of these cables during the past year have been extremely heavy and should be avoided in the future. It is, therefore, recommended that a message be sent via pouch substantially as follows to all senior representatives and station chiefs, and to all such other CIA personnel abroad as you may deem necessary:

"As you have noticed, there are a large number of Congressional visits abroad to inspect U.S. installations and facilities, particularly when the Congress is out of session. The cost of notifying you of each impending visit to your area is prohibitive. The Department of State, however, is obliged to send messages to each station where Congressional visits are impending, giving the make-up of the Congressional delegation and its itinerary and schedule. Therefore, we have made arrangements

with the Department of State to inform you of each impending Congressional visit as soon they receive word from the Department.



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"As a result of these arrangements, it should be understood that CIA personnel in the field should have no contact with visiting Congressional delegations if same can be avoided, and no further messages on such visits will be sent. However, in every instance where a visiting Senator or Congressman has received a briefing from CIA prior to his trip, you will be specifically informed, with instructions as to the nature and extent of any contact you should have with such individual. It is understood that situations may arise in the field which will make it mandatory for you to accede to a Congressional request for a meeting, and if such is unavoidable you are authorized to handle the situation as you feel best, but every attempt should be made to refer the visitor to Washington for replies to his questions. Any such contacts should be reported to headquarters at once, followed by a detailed report via the next pouch."

Walter L. Pforzheimer
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OGC:WLP/blc
Orig. & 1 - Add.
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